



South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SD GUARD ANNOUNCES SOLDIER AND NCO OF THE YEAR

The South Dakota Army National Guard is pleased to announce Spc. Dalton DeBoer, of Clear Lake, as its Soldier of the Year and Staff Sgt. Sam Schaefer, of Watertown, as its Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 2013. Both soldiers are members of Watertown's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion.

The NCO and Soldier of the Year titles are the top honors that can be bestowed upon enlisted personnel in the state's Army National Guard.

DeBoer and Schaefer were the top winners for the state's Army Guard Best Warrior Competition held in September. DeBoer and Schaefer battled against 33 other competitors in an series of events to include a written exam, essay writing, battle drills, M-16 rifle marksmanship, land navigation, obstacle course, six-mile road march (carrying a 40-pound pack) and a physical fitness test.

"The events embodied the whole soldier concept," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe, senior NCO for the SDARNG. "They all had to know weapons, warrior tasks, board knowledge and the Warrior Ethos."

The next challenge ahead for DeBoer and Schaefer will be representing South Dakota in the Region 6 Best Warrior competition to be held May 18-22, 2014. The competition will be hosted by the SDARNG and take place in Rapid City. Competitors from six other states will join DeBoer and Schaefer to compete for the regional title. The winners of that competition will advance to the national Best Warrior Competition.

"It is a testament of their Army values and the Warrior Ethos that they didn't quit," Shoe remarked of Schaefer and DeBoer. "They definitely distinguished themselves as the best of the best."

Shoe also remarked about the spirit of the competition. "The Soldiers who won the individual events had a determination, a winning spirit inside of them," said Shoe. "Yet there was a great deal of camaraderie, everyone was helping each other, supporting each other through the competition."

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FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT SDNG MUSEUM

Hay Rides

Bake sale

You are invited to the
Harvest Moon Dance
Saturday, November 23, 2013

7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

At the American Legion Cabin

Pierre Post # 8

520 South Pierre Street

Pierre, SD

Dance to the 1940's Big Band sound once again

This will be a fund raiser for the South Dakota National Guard Museum's north gallery relighting project.

50/50 Drawing

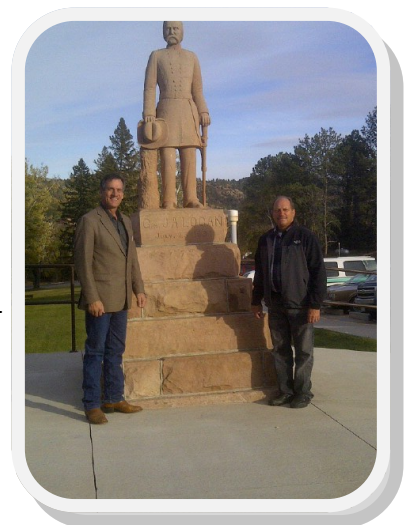
Silent Auction

SENATOR RHODEN TOURS STATE VETERANS HOME

This week Senator Larry Rhoden and his wife Sandy visited the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. Senator Rhoden was unable to attend the groundbreaking ceremony due to scheduling conflicts and wanted the opportunity to walk the grounds to visualize the layout for the new home as well as tour the existing facilities.

Sandy Rhoden's father was a resident at the home years ago and in fact her brother held his wedding on the MJFSVH campus so that his father could attend.

Secretary Zimmerman welcomes the opportunity to provide legislators with a tour and update on the facility.



MEET OUR NEW EMPLOYEES AT THE SIOUX FALLS CLAIMS OFFICE

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs recently filled the three vacant positions in the Sioux Falls Claims Office. Michael Maske has accepted the claims examiner position and began his duties with the Department on Nov. 4. Mike and his wife live in Harrisburg and have a son and two daughters. Mike enjoys spending his free time with family, being outdoors, hunting or fishing with his kids, or working on cars for friends and family.

Mike is currently in the South Dakota Army National Guard. With 11 yrs. of service, Mike currently serves with the 235th MP CO in Sioux Falls. He deployed with the 235th MP CO. to Afghanistan from Oct. 2006 – Jan. 2008.

Mike looks forward to working with the Department of Veteran Affairs and helping our servicemen and women and their families in any way that he can.

Don Thomson, a familiar name to many, has agreed to join our team of experts and serve as a veterans service officer for the Department. For the past 12-year Don has served as the Lake County Emergency Management Director and Veterans Service Officer.

Don has a 27-year military career from which he retired from in 2001. Don's military career consisted of being one of the initial waves of Active Guard Reserve (AGR) full time support with the 153rd Engineer Battalion which was stationed in Springfield, Howard, and Madison South Dakota.

When not assisting veterans, Don enjoys working with technology from the hardware, software, and programming aspects. He loves to dig into any type of electronic device and software to figure out how it works — look out Aaron!!!! He also enjoys plumbing, electrical, carpentry and mechanical work. Over all he likes doing just about anything at least once, with the exception of jumping from a perfectly good airplane. He likes to spend as much time as possible with his family and helping others. Don and his wife have three children and three grandchildren.

Our other new veterans service officer is Oliver Lee "Jack" Duck. Jack comes to the Department with over 21 years of military service and retiring as an E-9 Master Chief in the Navy.

A Vietnam Veteran, Jack brings great legal and investigative expertise to the Department. Jack served JAG officers and obtained his paralegal certification from Old Dominion University. Jack and his wife Gail have three daughters, three sons and five grandchildren.

Email addresses for our three new employees are as follows: Donald—(donald.thomson@va.gov); Michael—(michael.maske@va.gov) and Oliver—(oliver.duck@va.gov).



GHOSTS AND GOBLINS VISIT THE STATE VETERANS HOME



It's Halloween

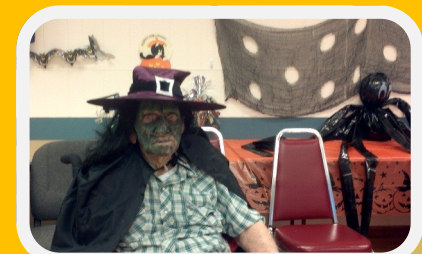
by Jack Prelutsky

It's Halloween! It's Halloween!
The moon is full and bright
And we shall see what can't be seen
On any other night.

Skeletons and ghosts and ghouls,
Grinning goblins fighting duels,
Werewolves rising from their
tombs,
Witches on their magic brooms.

In masks and gowns
we haunt the street
And knock on doors
for trick or treat.

Tonight we are the king and
queen,
For oh tonight it's Halloween!



VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

SIGN UP



SIGN UP

Veteran Recruiting Services is pleased to invite you to join us on November 11th for the Veterans Day Virtual Career Fair for the military community. Meet and interact live with recruiters from dozens of America's leading employers and government agencies, from the comfort and convenience of your home or office.

How it Works

- Build a profile
- Upload resume
- Add a picture
- Visit employer booths
- Chat with recruiters
- View/apply for jobs
- Chat with other job seekers in the lounge
- Video interviews after the career fair offered

GREAT PRIZE GIVEAWAYS



Partial Employer List



More than 37,000 veterans and military spouses hired since September 2011

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS VETERANS DAY

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, Citizens throughout South Dakota set aside Veterans Day for special remembrance of the men and women who have served to protect our freedom; and,

Whereas, The sound of bugles playing taps will fill the air at countless ceremonies around the country and at our bases overseas in tribute to those who gave their lives to safeguard our freedom; and,

Whereas, On this special day, our hearts and thoughts also turn to those who were disabled while serving their country. Their sacrifices and hardships, earn daily, the honor and compassion of a grateful state and nation; and,

Whereas, Over 75,000 men and women living in South Dakota have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces; and,

Whereas, From Valley Forge to Afghanistan, through war and peace, valiant Americans have answered the call to duty with honor and dignity. These brave men and women, and their loved ones, have made significant sacrifices on behalf of our nation; and,

Whereas, With a spirit of pride and gratitude, we honor all our veterans, and I invite all citizens of South Dakota to join me in observing Veterans Day through appropriate celebrations, activities, and a moment of silence at 11:00 am:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2013, as

VETERANS DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Thirteen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Patricia K. Miller Deputy
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State

SHOUT OUT

Here's a big "SHOUT OUT" to all the schools, community clubs, veterans service organizations, and Guard Units that are hosting Veterans Day Programs in their communities.

We salute you and we thank you for all that you do to raise awareness of honoring our veterans and their families.

The Noble and the Brave: A Veteran's Day Tribute

When America had an urgent need,
These brave ones raised a hand;
No hesitation held them back;
They were proud to take a stand.

They left their friends and family;
They gave up normal life;
To serve their country and their God,
They plowed into the strife.

They fought for freedom and for peace
On strange and foreign shores;
Some lost new friends; some lost their lives
In long and brutal wars.

Other veterans answered a call
To support the ones who fought;
Their country had requirements for
The essential skills they brought.

We salute every one of them,
The noble and the brave,
The ones still with us here today,
And those who rest in a grave.

So here's to our country's heroes;
They're a cut above the rest;
Let's give the honor that is due
To our country's very best.

By Joanna Fuchs



FLIGHT MEDICS ON PATH TO COMPLETE PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION

Five flight medics from the South Dakota Army National Guard will be some of the first in the nation to complete the Home Station Paramedic Training Program, which allows Army flight medics to attain their National Registry Paramedic (NRP) certification close to home. The program is an alternative to the paramedic courses offered at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School.

The soldiers were recognized at a ceremony Thursday, Oct. 31, at Camp Rapid for graduating from the NRP program through Western Dakota Technical Institute. The soldiers are participants of a pilot program designed to train experienced flight medics at existing local NRP programs close to air ambulance units' or soldiers' home of record. All that remains for the soldiers to become NRP certified is the final exam, scheduled for Nov. 9 in Denver.

The Home Station Paramedic Training Program is part of an Army initiative to attain NRP certification and critical care training of Army flight medics. The goal is to further enhance the level of pre-hospital trauma care available to soldiers at or near the point of injury to treat and stabilize, as well as provide in-flight medical care to the critically injured while being transported aboard air ambulances during peacetime and combat operations.

The course is a National Guard Bureau endorsed Reserve component prototype, which replaces the nine-month active-duty component course conducted at Fort Sam Houston through the University of Texas in San Antonio. The training model aims to reduce costs and increase the number of available seats for students to attend. The cost savings per student is projected to be about \$19,000.

"The focus of this program is the ability of our soldiers to get this training close to home," said Billi Jo Bierle, specialty branch officer for the 109th Regional Support Group. "Having them get the training locally eliminates the need for them to move for nine months. It saves money and allows the soldiers to focus on their studies without leaving their home, family or Guard unit."

Army Lt. Col. Paul Dueringer, aeromedical evacuation operations officer for the National Guard Bureau, who is overseeing the pilot program, said experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan have highlighted the requirement for an increased level of advanced pre-hospital trauma and critical care transport capability in Army medical evacuation units. "An analysis of this emerging medical requirement indicates the most effective course of action towards achieving higher survival rates and improving patient outcomes is through NRP training and certification of Army flight medics," said Dueringer. "This program is designed to help fulfill that requirement."

The vast majority of soldiers who die on the battlefield do so before reaching a physician, according to the Department of Defense's Defense Manpower Data Center. The center's analysis of medical evacuation mission requirements supports providing additional specialized advance trauma management at or near the point of injury.

To help improve the survivability rate of soldiers under their care, Staff Sgt. Joseph Larson, Staff Sgt. Jared Sampson, Sgt. Rachel Hobbs, Sgt. Adam Max, and Spc. Alyssa Weaver, all flight medics with Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, began the six-month course at Western Dakota Tech. in May. The five medics were on military orders and their primary duty was to attend class five days a week, with clinical labs. They also attended weekend drill training to maintain their flight qualifications as required by their unit commander.





**You're
invited!**



**The Black Hills NW Nebraska Community
presents:**

***Shrine of Democracy Chorus and
The Abbey Road Band***

In a benefit concert, free will donation,

Saturday, November 16 Doors open at 6 p.m.

Concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn Rapid City, SD

**All proceeds will go towards furnishing client rooms at the
new Michael J Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home.**

(This is a family friendly event)

The Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home is not affiliated with or endorsed by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. No products will be sold. For additional important disclosure information, please visit [Thrivent.com/disclosures](https://www.thrivent.com/disclosures).

Upcoming Events

2013

Nov. 9—Deadwood Veterans Salute

Nov. 11 — Veterans Day

Nov. 16—Shrine of Democracy Chorus and the Abbey Road Band—Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn

Nov. 18—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls—10:00 am

Dec. 14— Wreaths Across America Ceremony Wildwood Mausoleum at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park—300 N. Chapel Hill Road—Sioux Falls—11:00

Dec. 4—Veterans Commission Meeting

Dec. 14—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

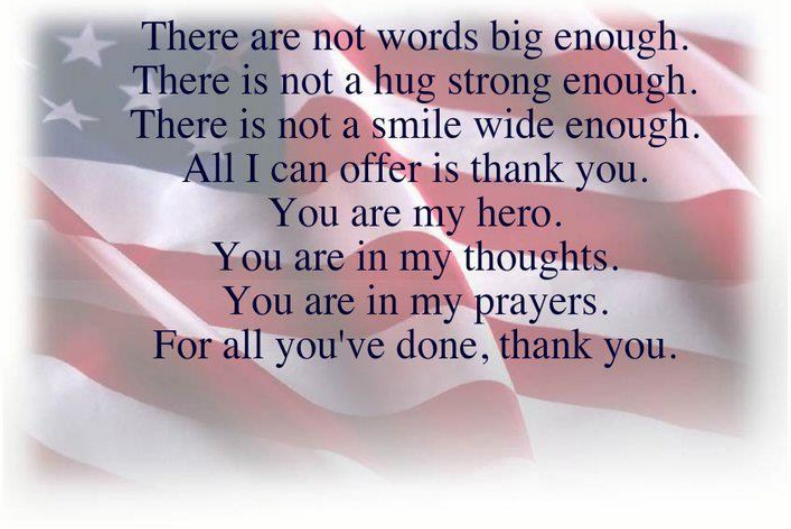
2014

Jan. 25-26- 235th MP Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Chamberlain Cedar Shore Resort

Jan. 31—SD Veterans Council Breakfast with Legislators—6:30 am

Feb. 8- 129th MPAD Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Rapid City

Feb 15-16- 152nd Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Sioux Falls



There are not words big enough.
There is not a hug strong enough.
There is not a smile wide enough.
All I can offer is thank you.
You are my hero.
You are in my thoughts.
You are in my prayers.
For all you've done, thank you.

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
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